



GRACE EPISCOPAL DAY SCHOOL

Carol G. Hjortsberg
Head of School

CC 96-45
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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

October 7, 1996

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street N.W. Room 814
Washington, D. C. 20554

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NOV 14 1996

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

CC: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

We at Grace Episcopal Day School write in strong support of affordable and meaningful discounts for all schools and libraries so that every school child and life-long learner can have access to the world of information technology. The passage of the Telecommunications Act earlier this year mandates the development of a rate for education or an "e-rate" to secure affordable rates reflecting the financial capability of this community.

There is no doubt that advanced telecommunications services are important to improving learning, sparking the imagination and leveling the playing field for all of this nation's people. Affordable access to technology in all classrooms and libraries will assure that our children and life-long learners can connect with the technology needed to compete in today's and tomorrow's workforce. Advanced telecommunications services in the classroom will also create informed and skilled consumers of new technology well into the 21st century.

As the Federal Communications Commission and the Federal-State Joint Board implement the universal service provision we ask you to ensure that telecommunications companies provide services to schools and libraries at significantly discounted rates. All schools and libraries need long-term discounts that are truly affordable, flexible and offer choice in determining which services best meet each community's needs. It is imperative that these services are linked directly into the classroom, lab and work station.

We urge you to act upon this historic opportunity to bring the world of information to every school child and lifelong learner in America.

Sincerely,

Martha Membrino, Chair
Parent-Teacher Organization

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October 7, 1996

EX-107-108 LATE FILED

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20544

RECEIVED

NOV 14 1996

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Mr. Hunt:

RE: CC Docket 96-45, Universal Service

I write in strong support of meaningful discounts for libraries and schools as the Federal Communications Commission and the Federal-State Joint Board implement the universal service provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. In passing this landmark legislation, it is clear that Congress meant to ensure that, upon a bona fide request, a carrier is to provide services to libraries and schools at some type of discounted rate, less than the amounts charged for similar services to other parties.

Libraries need an "equity rate" to enable libraries to serve as community access points to the information infrastructure and to help libraries provide the American public with an expanded range of information opportunities for lifelong learning, work and career development, job hunting, citizenship, and leisure. This "equity rate" will spur library use of new technology and encourage development of new consumer markets while providing consumers with opportunity to gain new skills and technological literacy at their libraries.

Libraries need the capacity to support large numbers of simultaneous users and multi-media and high bandwidth applications. Libraries are increasingly the provider of local community electronic information. To provide libraries with the flexibility to meet community needs, all telecommunications services available commercially, by tariff, or by contract should be available to them at a discount.

Libraries are responsible and accountable users of technology; they have in the past and will continue to leverage efficiently all kinds of resources available to them, but libraries need affordable, discounted access to best serve the American public. Deeper discounts will also be necessary for libraries in high cost and rural areas, and in low income communities to reach "affordability".

I ask that you consider what libraries are telling you about their local needs, including the necessity of making any terms and conditions for an equity rate, simple and straight forward. We do not need to add to the costs of administration or local library budgets by onerous or complicated procedures to obtain a discounted rate.

I encourage you to assure universal service for all Americans by providing discounted and equitable telecommunications rates for libraries and schools.

Sincerely,

Barbara S. Rehmyer

Barbara S. Rehmyer
Vice-president of Ivan O. Davis - Liberty Library
Teacher at Walker School, Liberty, Maine
Student in Masters Degree Program for Library and Information Science

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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED 4069 Esperanza Drive
Sacramento, CA 95864

July 31, 1996

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW Room 814
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED
NOV 14 1996
Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Re: CC Docket 96-45 Universal Service

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I'm writing to urge your strong support for telecommunications discounts that will empower libraries and schools to fulfill their role as universal service providers as authorized by the Telecommunications Act of 1996. In passing this legislation, Congress recognized the key role of libraries in providing public access to the electronic information infrastructure and to ensure that carriers would provide services to libraries and schools at rates less than the those charged to other parties.

If libraries are to provide the public with an expanded range of information opportunities, they must have the capacity for high bandwidth interactive and visual applications. Libraries are responsible and accountable users of technology. They have in the past and will continue to leverage every bit of help. Meaningful discounts to the full range of telecommunication services available commercially will enable libraries to continue and expand their services in communities and in schools.

I strongly urge you to give serious attention to libraries and the proposals they are making directly and through the American Library Association.

Sincerely,

Lynne A. Williams

Lynne A. Williams

/law

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CC96-45

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GREENVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

205 SOUTH FRANKLIN STREET
GREENVILLE, MICHIGAN 48838
616-754-6359

FCC MAIL ROOM
NOV 14 1996
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The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW Room 814
Washington, DC 20554

November 11, 1996

Dear Chairman Hundt:

This message is to convey our support for efforts in establishing discounts for libraries for Internet access and services. The Telecommunications Act President Clinton signed this past February presents us with the opportunity to provide our patrons with the up-to-date technology that would otherwise be difficult or even impossible for us to obtain. In this day of fast-paced information retrieval and increased reliance on technology as a source of this information, the availability of current resources, such as the Internet, is a powerful requirement. Our patrons, like those in any city, regardless of size, deserve the information and technology they ask for, pay for, and demand. By supporting endeavors to provide libraries like ours with ways of funding Internet resources, you can help us to extend to our citizens the tools of learning and knowledge they rightfully expect from their public library.

Sincerely,



Patricia Noordhoorn,
Library Director

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960226
01-9645**Community Unit School District 200**

Administration and School Service Center
Office of the Superintendent
130 West Park Avenue
Wheaton, Illinois 60187-6400

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Phone: (630) 682-2002

Fax: (630) 682-2227

November 4, 1996

RECEIVED

NOV 14 1996

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Honorable Reed Hundt
1919 M. Street
Washington, D. C. 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

Community Unit School District 200 is a large unit school district serving 13,500 students K-12 in the western suburbs of Chicago. We have developed a Strategic Plan with a major goal of successfully integrating technology instructionally and administratively, as well as strategies for improved communication within the organization and with our community.

As a district, we have been anxiously watching the development and subsequent passage of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 for its potential impact on our ability to provide our schools and libraries with affordable access to telecommunications services. We understand the importance of these services to the delivery of relevant instruction to our students as they move into the 21st Century and to our ability to better communicate with the community we serve.

Please consider the reality of the economic strain placed on public education as it attempts to successfully enhance educational delivery with the technological tools students will need to compete in the global community. What may seem to be "affordable" to providers may be out of reach for districts struggling to maintain current programs, much less add technological innovations. We would hope at a minimum, schools and libraries would be given a wholesale price for telecommunications services, and optimally that these discounts could extend to all dimensions of these services--i.e. fiber optics to wireless communications and the necessary installation services.

We appreciate your consideration of today's students as you make your deliberations. They are the citizens of tomorrow.

Sincerely,

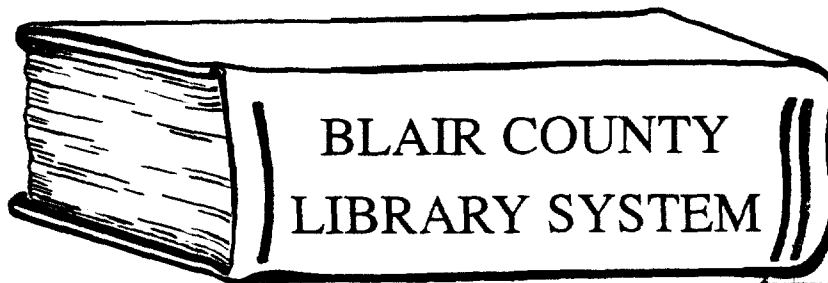


Dr. E. James Travis
Superintendent

cc: Andrew Barrett
Susan Nant
Julie Johnson
Kenneth McClure
Sharon Nelson
Lanka Schoenfelder
Martha Hogerty

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CC 96-45 CB



1600 FIFTH AVENUE, ALTOONA, PENNSYLVANIA 16602

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October 25, 1996

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW Room 814
Washington DC 20554

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NOV 14 1996

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Sir:

I am writing in regard to Universal Service proceedings (Docket No. 96-45).

I am the system administrator of a county library system in rural/semi-rural central Pennsylvania.

We have seven small public libraries and a district center library in Altoona. It is imperative that citizens in our area have access to technology. Our schools are struggling with physical plants that require attention and our county government is faced with overwhelming demands for services. Our elected officials want to provide technology but cost is the major concern.

For several of the smallest libraries in the county, the additional cost of a telephone line and INTERNET access is beyond their budgets. Providing access to technology is a necessity if the youth of our region are to compete for jobs in the next century. Our libraries want to provide all the services currently available and are willing to go the extra mile, but financially it is extremely difficult.

We would appreciate the support of your Commission to encourage the telecommunications industry to provide free access to schools and libraries.

Sincerely,

Susan K. Solarczyk
System Administrator

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CC 96-45

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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

October 4, 1996

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW, Room 814
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

NOV 14 1996

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

CC: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I write in strong support of affordable and meaningful discounts for all schools and libraries so that every school child and life-long learner can have access to the world of information technology. The passage of the Telecommunications Act earlier this year mandates the development of a rate for education or an "E-Rate" to secure affordable rates reflecting the financial capability of this community.

There is no doubt that advanced telecommunications services are important to improving learning, sparking the imagination and leveling the playing field for all of this nation's people. Affordable access to technology in all classrooms and libraries will assure that our children and life-long learners can connect with the technology needed to compete in today's and tomorrow's workforce. Advanced telecommunications services in the classroom will also create informed and skilled consumers of new technology well into the 21st century.

As the Federal Communications Commission and Federal-State Joint Board implement the universal service provision I ask you to ensure that telecommunications companies provide services to schools and libraries at significantly discounted rates. All schools and libraries need long-term discounts that are truly affordable, flexible and offer choice in determining which services best meet each community's needs. It is imperative that these services are linked directly into the classroom, lab and work station.

I urge you to each upon this historic opportunity to bring the world of information to every school child and lifelong learner in America.

Sincerely,

Samuel Johnson
Samuel Johnson
Lexington - Ky 40507

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109645

October 21, 1996

FILE COPY ORIGINAL

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NOV 14 1996

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW, Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

Because they often have very limited budgets but perform essential services, I am writing in strong support of substantial and affordable discounts for telecommunication services for America's schools and libraries. The passage of the Telecommunications Act earlier this year mandates the development of a rate for education or an "e-rate" to secure affordable rates reflecting the financial capability of this community.

Internet connectivity in America's schools and libraries will provide all citizens with access to the resources of libraries throughout the world and will facilitate the sharing of information in our communities, states, and nation. Supporting schools and libraries with a substantially discounted e-rate for telecommunications helps provide all citizens of our nation with access to critical information resources - avoiding pockets of information "have-nots." Once connected, schools and libraries will utilize these networked information resources to help prepare the nations' children and citizens to advance in the competition and rapid changes characterizing the global information economy of the next century. The learning made possible with an e-rate may be essential to the future of our democracy.

The existence and well-being of libraries measures the priority that a community or a nation places on freedom, knowledge, truth, justice, culture, and children. Libraries inform citizens, obliterate boundaries, promote equality, provide alternative perspectives, nourish creativity, educate children, build communities, expand economies, nurture broken souls, and sustain families. They preserve the wisdom and the culture of the past. They provide electronic gateways to today's knowledge, and they harbor visions of our future. The founders of our democracy realized that our system of freedom could not and would not flourish without education and libraries. And they also realized that libraries could not flourish without the support of all citizens, the support of governments, and the support of business.

Discounted telecommunications for schools and libraries provides the public with enhanced opportunities to participate in their democracy by promoting an informed and knowledgeable populace and increasing citizen access to government facilities and government information. Facilitating the free flow of information between the government and the public enables the public to meet their civic responsibilities, protect their rights, and provide for their consent. Networked government information belongs to the people, is owned by them, and should be accessible to them. These

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principles have been fundamental tenets of this nation since its inception.

As the Federal Communications Commission and the Federal-State Joint Board implement the universal service provision, I ask you to ensure that telecommunications companies provide services to schools and libraries at significantly discounted rates. All schools and libraries need long-term discounts that are truly affordable, flexible and offer choice in determining which services best meet each communities' needs. It is imperative that these services are linked directly into the classroom, lab, and work station. I urge you to act upon this historic opportunity to bring the world of information to every learner in America.

Sincerely,

Connie Jones

3002 35 1/2 Ave SW

Fargo, ND

58104

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

CC 96-45



BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES
OF NASSAU COUNTY

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

October 28, 1996

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW, Room 814
Washington, DC 20554

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RECEIVED

NOV 14 1996

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

CC: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

We write this letter in strong support of meaningful and extensive discounts for all schools and libraries so that every school child and lifelong learner can have access to information technology. The passage of the Telecommunications Act earlier this year mandates the development of a rate for education ("E-rate") to secure reasonable rates reflecting the financial capability of the community.

In Nassau County, we have 56 school districts with varied ranges of economic support. Many of our residents and local businesses have been impacted by the shifts in the defense industry and corporate mergers and bankruptcies. We need to ensure that our students acquire the lifetime learning skills to adapt to the jobs of the next century. We know that those who will get those jobs will have basic technology skills and the ability to adapt and learn as the technology workplace continues to change. Affordable access to technology in all classrooms and libraries will assure that our children can connect with the technology needed to compete in the workplace of both today and tomorrow.

Advanced telecommunications services are important to improving learning, sparking the creative spirit, and leveling the playing field for all community members. No school or library should be denied entry onto the information superhighway for lack of funds. Restricting access to only those who can afford undiscounted rates will separate communities into technological "haves" and "have nots." All schools and libraries need long-term discounts that are truly affordable and flexible enough to offer choices in determining which services best meet each area's needs.

We urge you to act on a recommendation that will assure that telecommunications companies provide services to schools and libraries at significantly discounted rates, and in turn, assure access to technology for all Americans in every school classroom and library.

Sincerely,

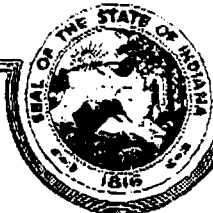
Charles W. Fowler
District Superintendent

CWF/ts

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FY 1997 E-RATE ON LATE FILED

STATE OF INDIANA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DR. SUELLEN REED, SUPERINTENDENT

INDIANAPOLIS 46204-2798

ROOM 229 - STATE HOUSE
AREA CODE 317-232-6665

October 29, 1996

RECEIVED

NOV 14 1996

Federal Communications Commission
Office of SecretaryThe Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street Northwest, Room 814
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I urge you and other members of the Joint Board to support the "Plan to Implement the E-Rate: Guaranteeing Universal Access to the National Information Infrastructure for All Schools and Libraries in America" when you make your recommendations next week.

Your presentation at NSBA last week revealed your insight, enthusiasm, and commitment to education. I know that as a former educator you recognize the need for free basic services and affordable rates for advanced services to each school and library. School and libraries must be fully connected--not merely to a service at the exterior of their buildings--to a basic package of services that meet local educational needs.

Within the framework of effective teaching and learning, planning, and professional development, Indiana's goal is to provide equitable access to up-to-date, interactive technologies, including telecommunication technologies for all educators and learners in the school, library, and community. Our own Access Indiana initiative and the investment of technologies within the schools and libraries in Indiana have been limited by the monthly access charges and the inability of rural areas, especially, to have access to broadband telecommunications services. The E-Rate plan would advance and accelerate the vision of improved lifelong learning for an educated citizenry and improved workforce in Indiana.

In making its recommendations, I urge the Joint Board to endorse the concept and principles of the "E-Rate" plan in guaranteeing universal and affordable access for every school and library.

Sincerely,

Dr. Suellen Reed
Superintendent
of Public InstructionNo. of Copies rec'd _____
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Dennis L. Bybee
P. O. Box 4463
Alexandria, VA 22303

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CC 96-45

October 16, 1966

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Ernestine Creech, Common Carrier Bureau
Acct & Audits Div.
2000 L St., N.W.,
Suite 257
Washington, DC 20554

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NOV 14 1966
Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Ms. Creech:

With respect to FCC 96-93 in CC Docket No. 96-45 [i.e., universal service for schools and libraries under the new Telecommunications Act of 1966], the following additional comment is submitted for your consideration:

Because of the referential connection between Sections 254(h)(B) and 254(c)(3) of the Law, the definition of "additional special services" for educational purposes under Section 254(c)(3) of PL 104-104 must simply include --

"ANY AND ALL AVAILABLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES."

Regardless of whatever educational discounts are determined necessary and proper by appropriate regulatory agencies under Section 254(h)(B) [i.e., the FCC for InterState and State PUCs for IntraState services], IT IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL THAT RATES FOR ANY TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES CHARGED TO SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES MUST BE --


"...rates less than the amounts charged for similar services to other parties..."

AS SPECIFICALLY INTENDED AND PROVIDED IN THIS PUBLIC LAW.

The only way that THE PUBLIC and these PUBLIC SERVICE INSTITUTIONS can be assured "affordable access" to needed telecommunications services for educational purposes -- as intended by the Congress both now and in the future -- is for the FCC to adopt this simple guiding principle that, WITHOUT BIDDING OR ANY OTHER GERRYMANDERED MICROMANAGEMENT RULES, schools and libraries must always and in all cases receive --

"ANY AND ALL AVAILABLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES AT RATES LESS THAN THE AMOUNTS CHARGED FOR SIMILAR SERVICES TO OTHER PARTIES."

This is arguably the most important single recommendation that the Federal State Joint Board on Universal Service can make with respect to FCC regulations implementing affordable access provisions for schools and libraries in PL 104-104.

Sincerely,

Dennis L. Bybee, Ph.D
Coordinator of ACE Coalition Comments

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CC 96-431



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

November 4, 1996

Memorandum

To: Mark Nadel *ccB*
From: Emilio Gonzalez *E. Gonzalez*
Special Assistant
Subject: Number of Public and Private K-12 Schools

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NOV 14 1996
Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

This is in response to your inquiry about the total number of public and private K-12 schools.

These totals are based on the best available data from the National Center for Educational Statistics data. For public K-12 schools (1994-95), the total number is: 86,221. For private K-12 schools (1993-94) the total number is: 26,093. Combined, the total number of schools is 112,314.

Please note that some of the public schools include juvenile detention centers and some of the private schools include alternative schools.

If I can be of further assistance, please contact me at: 202-205-0755.

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CC 96-45

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October 28, 1996

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NOV 14 1996

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Mrs. Patricia Wolfe
7 Clinton Street
Lowville, NY 13367

Dear Mrs. Wolfe:

Thank you for your letter regarding implementation of the universal service provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. The Joint Board will carefully consider your views and add your letter to the official docket in the Universal Service proceeding (CC Docket No. 96-45).

Sincerely,

Sheryl D. Todd
Accounting and Audits Division
Common Carrier Bureau

Mail
10/30

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EX PART 106 LATE FILED

10-115
cc docket
EX-115
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NOV 14 1996

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

August 22, 1996

TO: The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Members of the Federal State Joint Board on Universal Service
Federal Communication Commission
1919 M Street, NW Room 814
Washington, DC 920554

RE: CC Docket 96-45, Universal

As the manager of a seven county rural library system in Wisconsin with 31 public libraries, I am writing in strong support of meaningful discounts for libraries and schools as the Federal Communications Commission and the Federal-State Joint Board implement the universal service provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. It is imperative that these services be made available in rural schools and libraries - to communities that would not be able to afford the associated costs without some type of discount.

Public libraries and schools in these communities serve as access points to the information infrastructure. These proposed discounts could help our rural users with an expanded range of information opportunities for lifelong learning, work and career development, job hunting, citizenship, and leisure.

This "equity rate" will spur library and school use of new technology and allow our rural, and sometimes, low income communities, to participate on an equitable level with urban areas.

I encourage you to assure universal service for all Americans by providing discounted and equitable telecommunications rates for libraries and schools.

Carol Erickson

Carol Erickson
Winding Rivers Library System

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cc 96-45

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October 14, 1996

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW, Room 814
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

NOV 14 1996

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

CC: Docket No. 96-45

Dear *Chairman Hundt*:

I write in strong support of affordable and meaningful discounts for all schools and libraries so that every school child and life-long learner can have access to the world of information technology. The passage of the Telecommunications Act earlier this year mandates the development of a rate for education or an "e-rate" to secure affordable rates reflecting the financial capability of this community.

There is no doubt that advanced telecommunication services are important to improving ~~learning, sparking the~~ imagination and leveling the playing field for all of this nation's people. Affordable access to technology in all classrooms and libraries will assure that our children and life-long learners can connect with the technology needed to compete in today's and tomorrow's workforce. Advanced telecommunications services in the classroom will also create informed and skilled consumers of new technology well into the 21st century.

As the Federal Communications Commission and the Federal-State Joint Board implement the universal service provision, I ask you to ensure that telecommunications companies provide services to school and libraries at significantly discounted rates. All school and libraries need long-term discounts that are truly affordable, flexible and offer choice in determining which services best meet each community's needs. It is imperative that these services are linked directly into the classroom, lab and work station.

I urge you to act upon this historic opportunity to bring the world of information to every school child and lifelong learner in America.

Sincerely,

*Gladys M. Hidalgo*No. of Copies rec'd 1
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November 10, 1996

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW Room 814
Washington, DC 20554

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CC: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

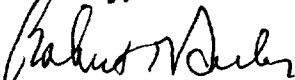
I write in strong support of affordable and meaningful discounts for all schools and libraries so that every school child and life-long learner can have access to the world of information technology. The passage of the Telecommunications Act earlier this year mandates the development of a rate for education or an "e-rate" to secure affordable rates reflecting the financial capability of this community.

There is no doubt that advanced telecommunications services are important to improving learning, sparking the imagination and leveling the playing field for all of this nation's people. Affordable access to technology in all classrooms and libraries will assure that our children and life-long learners can connect with the technology needed to compete in today's and tomorrow's workforce. Advanced telecommunications services in the classroom will also create informed and skilled consumers of new technology well into the 21st century.

As the Federal Communications Commission and the Federal-State Joint Board implement the universal service provision I ask you to ensure that telecommunications companies provide services to schools and libraries at significantly discounted rates. All schools and libraries need long-term discounts that are truly affordable, flexible and offer choice in determining which services best meet each community's needs. It is imperative that these services are linked directly into the classroom, lab and work station.

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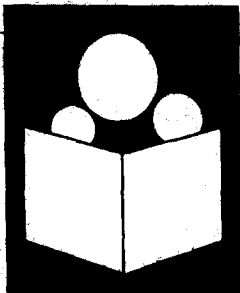
Sincerely,



Robert G. Seiler
427 Crestview Drive
Greensburg, PA 15601

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Mount Pleasant Veterans Memorial

LIBRARY

Public Libraries of Mt. Pleasant and Isabella County

301 South University Avenue • Mt. Pleasant, Michigan 48858 • (517) 773-3242 • Fax (517) 772-3280

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November 5, 1996

FCC MAIL ROOM

NOV 14 1996

RECEIVED

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW Room 814
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Hundt:

This letter is in reference to CC Docket 96-45 regarding universal service and discounted telecommunications rates for public libraries.

The Public Libraries of Mount Pleasant and Isabella County serve a total population of 54,616 citizens with a main library and five branches located in predominantly rural agricultural areas. Our total operating budget for 1997 will be approximately \$907,000.

There are a total of four (4) telephone companies and 3 cable companies that serve our county. Three of our small branches are long distance from the main library and are long distance from each other. Automating the branches and linking them electronically to the main library for resource sharing through a wide area network using 56k lines is going to cost \$14,000 annually. This represents a substantial financial burden. As technology evolves and faster telecommunication lines become a necessity, the economic burden will become greater. The Library Board of Trustees and I will have to make tough decisions about whether or not we can afford to provide electronic access to information for our citizens. The median household income for Isabella County for 1993 was \$27,486 which means that many of our residents cannot afford computers of their own. Their only means of access to the Information Superhighway (Internet) is their local public library.

Universal service and discounted telecommunications rates for public libraries are critical for rural Michigan.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rose Frost

Rose Frost, Executive Director of Library Services

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CC 96-45

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

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NOV 14 1996

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am a mother of 3 children ranging in grades 3rd through Soph. in College and a teacher of children in first grade. I urge you to ensure that every schoolchild and lifelong learner has affordable access to the world of information technology by fully implementing the new Telecommunications Act. Right now, rates are not affordable for our schools and libraries.

A deeply discounted "education rate" is very important to our community. In today's world of work we need to be sure that the children and lifelong learners will be able to have the technology needed for the next century.

As you implement the "education rate," I urge you to make long-term discounts that are truly affordable and to give schools and libraries the flexibility & choice to determine

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best meet their needs. It is
also vital to bring these services
directly to the classroom, where
learning takes place.
I urge the FCC to seize
this historic opportunity.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Kitty Copple

CC 96-45
AAJ

**VALLEY STREAM
UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT THIRTY**
Administrative Offices
Washington Avenue Valley Stream, New York 11582

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Board of Education

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

tel # (516) 285-9881
fax # (516) 285-9839

June 3, 1996

RECEIVED

NOV 14 1996

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street, NW, Room 814
Washington, DC 20554

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Education of Valley Stream Union Free School District Thirty. The purpose of this correspondence is to urge the Federal-State Joint Board and the FCC to adopt rules that fully and aggressively implement the universal service provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 for schools and libraries. I also support the comments filed by the National School Boards Association.

Particularly, I request the FCC to include for deep discounts a range of telecommunications services that will give my district more affordable access to the Internet as well as to interactive, voice, data and video capability necessary for distance learning. It is also important that these services be provided directly to the classroom, where the learning actually takes place. I am also requesting the Commission to address the affordability needs of both the capital expenses of services and the ongoing costs.

My district is a small, suburban elementary school district. In recent years, the student population has steadily increased and has become more diversified.

On a limited basis, the district has been able to provide Internet access for upper grade students. The quality of Internet activities, though, has been high: e.g., interactive discussions with Rosa Parks, the civil rights activist, on-line communication with federal legislators, and teacher collaboration on an international basis.

The district would like to increase student access to the Internet so all students at each grade level will benefit. To properly provide such access, the district would like to establish LANs and WANs, install net modems, ISDN lines, and communicate through educationally appropriate service providers. Satellite signal receivers would increase opportunities for distance learning and staff development.

The costs of establishing, operating, and maintaining the necessary hardware systems is significant. In the case of a school district, these costs are usually at the expense of other educational programs.

The benefits of technology in my district have been significant. Students who have access to technology appear to be more motivated and interested in learning ... their interest in attending school is heightened. Technology has been favorably used to supplement remedial reading and math programs. For students who have been fortunate enough to interactively communicate on the Internet, learning has become dynamic and authentic.

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The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman

-2-

June 3, 1996

I believe that technology in the classroom is critical to ensuring that our children can succeed in a high-tech global marketplace. I urge the Commission to adopt rules that will help bring the broadest range of educational technology to our school children.

Please include this letter in the formal record.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas M. Galgano".

Thomas M. Galgano, President
Board of Education

00 96-45

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

October 14, 1996

Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St., N.W., Room 844
Washington, D.C. 20554

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RECEIVED

NOV 14 1996

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

RE: Common Carrier Docket #96-45

Dear Commissioner:

I support the passage of the special education rate or E-rate providing schools and libraries with a discounted rate for telecommunications.

There is no doubt that advanced telecommunications services are important to improving education, sparking the imagination and leveling the playing field for all of this nation's people. Affordable access to technology in all classrooms and libraries will assure that our children and life-long learners can connect with the technology needed to compete in today's and tomorrow's workforce.

All schools and libraries need long-term discounts that are truly affordable. They also need flexibility in determining which services best meet each community's needs. It is imperative that these services are linked directly to the classroom, lab and workstation.

I urge you to act upon this historic opportunity to bring the world of information to every school child and life-long learner in America.

Sincerely, *Dori Martinez*

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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

CC 96-45

October 14, 1996

Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St., N.W., Room 844
Washington, D.C. 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL
RECEIVED
NOV 14 1996
Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

RE: Common Carrier Docket #96-45

Dear Commissioner:

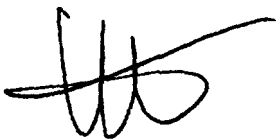
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I urge you to act upon this historic opportunity to bring the world of information to every school child and life-long learner in America.

Sincerely,



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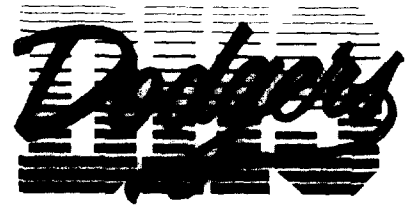
DODGEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

912 W. Chapel St.

Dodgeville, WI 53533

Phone 608-935-3307

JEFF ATHEY, HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL



Judy Adams
Guidance Counselor

Knight Wynn
Athletic Director

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

November 5, 1996

FCC MAIL ROOM

NOV 14 1996

RECEIVED

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street, N.W., Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Mr. Hundt:

Hello! I am writing in strong support of significant and affordable discounts for all schools and libraries so that students of every age can have access to the world of information technology. The passage of the Telecommunications Act earlier this year requires that a special rate for education, an "e-rate", be created to enable education entities to secure affordable technology services.

As the Federal Communications Commission and the federal-state Joint Board implements the universal service provision, I am asking that you take steps to ensure that telecommunications companies provide services to schools and libraries at significantly discounted rates.

Schools need long-term discounts that are affordable and flexible. Those discounts should offer a choice in determining which services best meet each community's needs. It is important that these services go beyond the school house door and directly into the classroom, lab, and work station.

In 1996-97, we will be leasing computers to replace 24 IBM computers in our Information Processing (B1) classroom, add eight work stations to our Computer Applications (B2) classroom, replace nine computers in the Library, and replace our six administrative offices' computers. We are hoping to string cables throughout the building to add computers to classrooms. Our intercom and phone system needs to be replaced this year, too. We hope to get a district-wide homework hotline system up and running before long as well. To accomplish these ends, it will cost the district a great deal of money over the course of the next several years.

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